

1 HJR31
2 135394-1
3 By Representatives Holmes, Knight and McClammy
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 07-FEB-12

8 COMMENDING FRED GRAY ON THE OCCASION OF BEING
9 HONORED BY JONES LAW SCHOOL AT FAULKNER UNIVERSITY.

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11 WHEREAS, highest commendation is herein conveyed to
12 one of Alabama's most distinguished attorneys, Fred David
13 Gray, on the occasion of being honored by Jones Law School of
14 Faulkner University on February 9-10, 2012; and

15 WHEREIN, a resident of Tuskegee and a native of
16 Montgomery, Mr. Gray is the senior partner in the firm of
17 Gray, Langford, Sapp, McGowan, Gray, Gray, and Nathanson,
18 P.C.; over the span of more than 57 years in the legal
19 profession, he achieved success in a series of landmark civil
20 rights cases that transformed the state and the nation and are
21 cited in Constitutional Law textbooks; and

22 WHEREAS, among the legal milestones in which Mr.
23 Gray played a key role were: the concept of one man one vote,
24 the mandate to provide protection for freedom marchers, the
25 end to systematic exclusion of Blacks from jury service, the
26 integration of all State institutions of higher learning and

most of the school systems in Alabama, and the desegregation of buses in the City of Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, after being educated at the Nashville Christian Institute, Alabama State University, and Case Western Reserve University, he embarked upon his distinguished legal career in 1954 by representing Rosa Parks, followed by becoming the first civil rights attorney for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, renowned as a litigator, lecturer, and trailblazer, he was one of the first African-Americans elected to the Alabama House of Representatives since Reconstruction; he was the first African-American to be elected President of the Alabama State Bar Association, and he served as the 43rd President of the National Bar Association; he is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, American College of Trial Lawyers, and International Society of Barristers; in addition, he has served on many court-appointed committees including as a member of the Merit Selection of Appellate Judges Committee; and

WHEREAS, few individuals can match Mr. Gray's legal achievements and contributions to mankind through a lifetime of dedicated service that has been marked by exceptional abilities, vision, courage, unquestioned integrity, and the relentless pursuit of justice; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Fred David Gray is honored and commended, and this resolution is offered in highest tribute

1 and deepest appreciation to him, along with heartiest
2 congratulations on being honored by the Jones School of Law of
3 Faulkner University on February 9-10, 2012, with a dinner and
4 symposium entitled: Attorney Fred Gray, A Change Agent for
5 Civil Rights.